



YES!  
PLEASE  
INTRODUCE  
ME, MOM.



YOU WANT  
TO MEET  
THE CEO  
OF START  
TODAY?



YOUR  
FRIENDS,  
TOO?

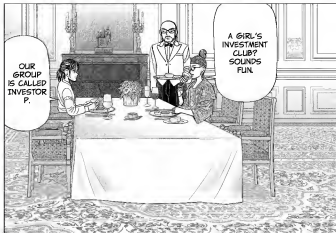
AND IF  
POSSIBLE,  
I'D LIKE MY  
FRIENDS TO  
MEET HIM,  
TOO.



OKAY, I'LL ASK HIM.

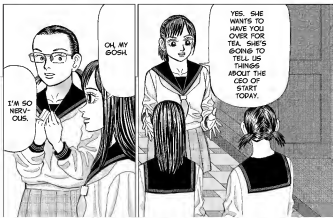


PRETTY PLEASE?



A GIRL'S INVESTMENT CLUB? SOUNDS FUN.









MEETING A  
BUSINESS  
MANAGER  
IN PERSON  
WILL BE A  
VALUABLE  
EXPERIENCE.



FIRST-YEAR  
JUNIOR  
HIGH  
STUDENTS  
DON'T  
USUALLY  
GET TO  
MEET  
BUSINESS  
MANAGERS.



IF HE  
BECAME  
SUCCESSFUL  
WITH  
EVEN ONE  
COMPANY, HE  
MUST BE AN  
EXTREMELY  
HARD  
WORKER.

I'M VERY  
CURIOUS TO  
LEARN ABOUT  
WHAT KIND  
OF PEOPLE  
MANAGE THEIR  
RESPECTIVE  
BUSINESSES.  
HE MUST BE AN  
OUTSTANDING  
PERSON.



OR MAYBE  
HE JUST  
STAMPS  
PAPERS  
WITH HIS  
SEAL OF  
APPROVAL.



HE  
PROBABLY  
ATTENDS  
LOTS OF  
CONFER-  
ENCES.

BUT I  
WONDER  
WHAT HE  
DOES  
DAY-TO-  
DAY?



A CEO IS  
SOMEONE  
WHO  
STAMPS HIS  
SEAL OF  
APPROVAL!

THAT'S  
RIGHT!



WHAT?



FIRST HE GETS  
THE AGREEMENT  
OF THE BOARD OF  
DIRECTORS. "IS IT  
OKAY IF I STAMP  
THIS?" AND THEN  
HE DOES THE  
STAMPING.

HOWEVER,  
HE DOESN'T  
HAVE THE  
AUTHORITY TO  
APPROVE  
THINGS ON  
HIS OWN.



THE REPRESENTATIVE DIRECTORS ARE THE KEY PLAYERS, WHICH MEANS THE "REPRESENTATIVE DIRECTOR CEO" IS NOTHING BUT ANOTHER REPRESENTATIVE DIRECTOR.

Representative Director  
**CEO**

WHY, YOU MAY ASK? BECAUSE STOCK COMPANIES DO PAY OUT MONEY, BUT THE SYSTEM IS SUCH THAT, AT THE END OF THE DAY, THE GROUP OF SHAREHOLDERS... WHO ARE AMATEURS AT BUSINESS MANAGEMENT... ROOT FOR THE PROFESSIONAL REPRESENTATIVE DIRECTORS TO KEEP IMPROVING THEIR BUSINESS, TO PROFIT FROM STOCK DIVIDENDS AND SALES.



THE TERM THAT IS USED IS "REPRESENTATIVE DIRECTOR."

LEGALLY SPEAKING, THERE IS NOT A SINGLE MENTION OF "CEO" IN JAPAN'S BUSINESS LAWS.



I THINK SAITO-SAN WOULD DO WELL.

THE NUMBER OF MEMBERS ON THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS IS DETERMINED ON THE BASIS OF THE COMPANY'S RULES OR "ARTICLES OF THE CORPORATION." THEY ARE THE ONES WHO ELECT THE REPRESENTATIVE DIRECTOR.





YOUNG  
BUSINESS  
MANAGERS  
NOWADAYS  
DO CALL THEM-  
SELVES "CEO"  
OR "CHIEF  
EXECUTIVE  
OFFICER," BUT  
IT'S JUST AN  
ARBITRARY  
TITLE.



I SEE, SO  
"CEO" IS  
NOTHING  
BUT A  
TITLE.



THERE ARE  
EVEN CEOs  
WHO HAVE NO  
REPRESENTATIVE  
AUTHORITY.



Representative Director

THE ONLY  
PERSON THAT  
MATTERS  
IS THE REP-  
RESENTATIVE  
DIRECTOR.



Represe

JUST  
REMEMBER  
THAT EACH  
COMPANY HAS  
ITS OWN  
SYSTEM.



Representative Director



Repres

THERE ARE  
COMPANIES OF  
WHICH ALL  
DIRECTORS ARE  
REPRESENTATIVE  
DIRECTORS.



Representative Director



Representative Director



Representative Director



I'VE ALWAYS  
PICTURED CEOs  
HAVING GREAT  
POWER TO STEER  
THEIR COMPANIES  
WHEREVER THEY  
SEE FIT, BUT I  
GUESS THAT'S  
NOT THE CASE.

I SEE...



PERHAPS  
THAT'S WHY  
JAPANESE  
INDUSTRIES  
ARE SO  
SLOW TO  
REACH  
DECISIONS.

IT MUST BE  
DIFFICULT TO  
GET THE  
BOARD OF  
DIRECTORS TO  
UNANIMOUSLY  
RATIFY  
DECISIONS.



FOR  
EXAMPLE,  
I'VE HEARD  
THEM TALK  
ABOUT AN  
EXECUTIVE  
DIRECTOR'S  
"STRONG  
LEADERSHIP"  
AND SO  
ON.

I'VE  
HEARD  
THAT,  
TOO.



THEY  
WERE IN  
THE RED,  
BUT GOT  
IN THE  
BLACK.

BUT I'VE  
HEARD OF  
FLOUNDERING  
COMPANIES  
RECOVERING  
VICTORIOUSLY  
BECAUSE THEY  
CHANGED  
EXECUTIVE  
DIRECTOR.





IN OTHER  
WORDS,  
CORPORATIONS  
ARE BUILT  
ON POWER  
GAMES.

VARIOUS GROUPS  
CLASH AND WRESTLE  
FOR LEVERAGE IN AN  
UNENDING PROCESS,  
AND THE ONES THAT  
WIN CHOOSE THEIR  
REPRESENTATIVES TO  
KEEP BUSINESS  
GOING.





THEY WON'T  
BE TRUSTED  
UNLESS THEY  
HAVE THEIR  
OWN  
BUSINESS  
PHILOSOPHY.

AND THAT  
IS THE TASK  
OF A REPRESENTATIVE  
DIRECTOR.



LIKE "PUT THE  
CUSTOMERS  
FIRST," "GO  
BEYOND THE  
STATUS QUO,"  
AND SO ON?

BUSINESS  
PHILOSOPHY...  
I SEE.



COACHES?



IN SIMPLE  
TERMS...

...THEY'RE LIKE  
BASEBALL  
AND SOCCER  
COACHES.

IN BASEBALL  
AND SOCCER, THE  
STRONGEST  
TEAMS ARE  
THOSE WHOSE  
COACHES DO  
NOTHING!













A black and white manga panel showing three people walking down a long, brightly lit office hallway. On the left, a woman with long dark hair wears a dark jacket over a light-colored shirt and a skirt. In the middle, a man with glasses and a ponytail wears a light-colored button-down shirt under a jacket. On the right, a woman with short dark hair wears a light-colored blazer over a patterned top. In the background, another person is partially visible. The hallway has a modern design with large windows and doors.

WHAT A  
STYLISH  
OFFICE...

WOW...  
THIS IS  
AMAZING.



A black and white manga panel showing a close-up of the three people from the hallway. The woman on the left is looking towards the man in the middle, who is pointing his finger towards the right. The woman on the right is looking in the same direction. They all have concerned or curious expressions.

HEY,  
LOOK  
AT  
THAT.



A black and white manga panel showing a close-up of the woman with short dark hair. She has a surprised or curious expression, with wide eyes and a slightly open mouth. She is wearing a light-colored blazer over a patterned top.

SO THIS  
IS THE  
MANAGEMENT  
OFFICE OF  
ZOOZOTOWN.



A black and white manga panel showing a display of five white t-shirts hanging on a wall. Each t-shirt has a large black letter on it. From left to right, the letters are N, O, W, A, and R. Below each t-shirt is a small label that says "ZOOZOTOWN". To the right of the display is a speech bubble.

IT SAYS  
"NO WAR."

